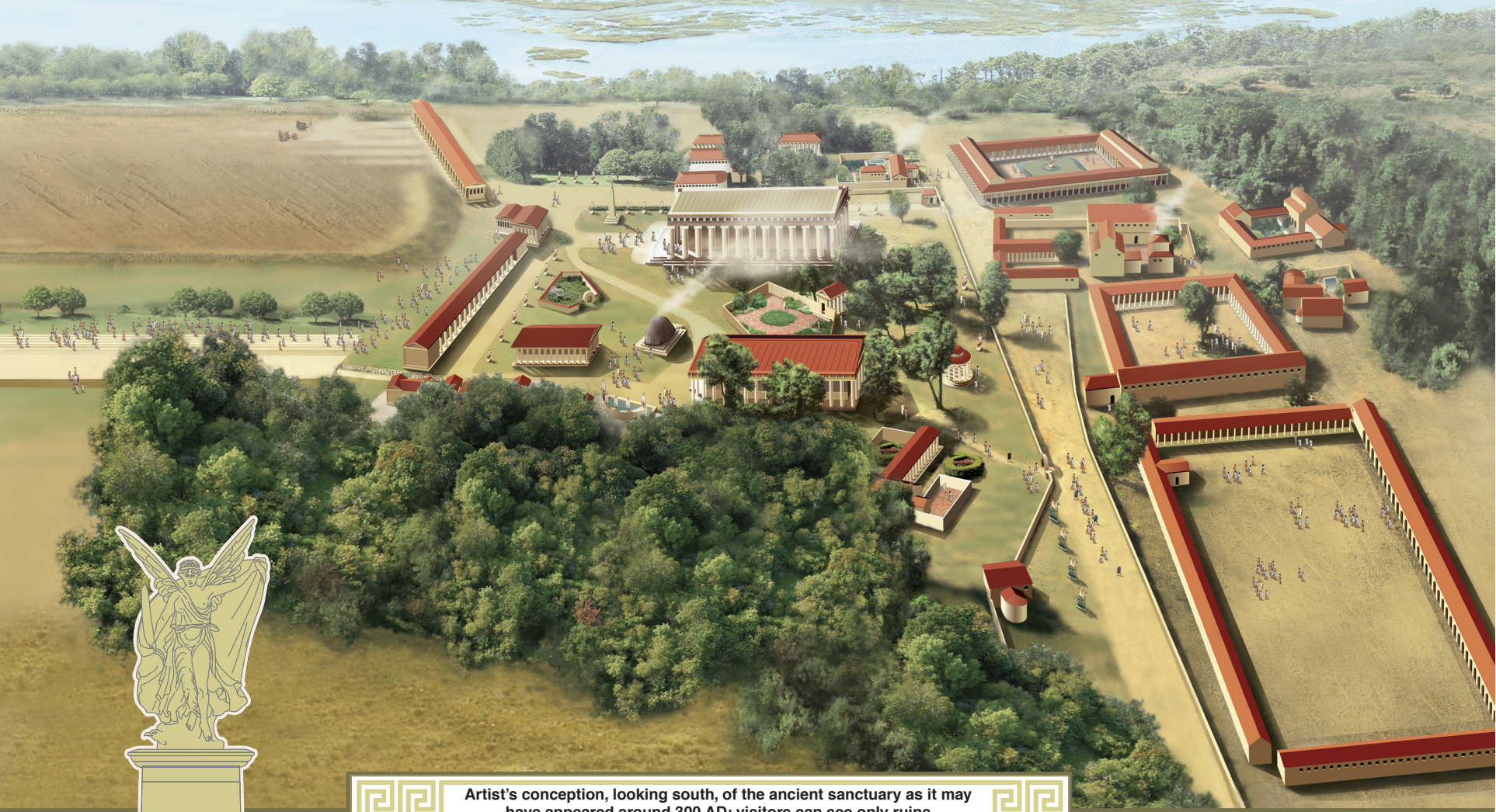


# Olympia

## Birthplace of the Olympics

The modern Olympic Games have their roots in the ancient ones, which can be traced to 776 B.C. The games were held every four years for nearly 12 centuries in Greece's oldest spiritual center – Olympia.



Artist's conception, looking south, of the ancient sanctuary as it may have appeared around 300 AD; visitors can see only ruins

★ **Pedestal of the Nike of Paonius**  
Statue of Nike, Greek goddess of victory, stood atop 30-ft. (9-m) pedestal in front of the entrance to Temple of Zeus  
**Symbolized victory in many areas of Greek life, including sports**

Remains of pedestal today



### • Modern equivalent

1 **Hippodrome** Horse, chariot races

• **Equestrian center**

2 **South Stoa** (colonnade)

3 **Stoa (colonnade) of Echo** Named because sounds echoed in it

4 **Stadium** Competition site; renovated three times; could seat 20,000

5 **Altar of Demetra** Goddess of fertility; priestess of Demetra given honored seat next to altar

6 **Exedra of the Hellenodikai** Judges' platform

7 **Treasures** Small temples; housed monetary tribute from Greek city-states to Olympia's gods, priests  
• **Olympic sponsors**

8 **Processional way** Priests, officials, athletes, the Hellenodikai (judges) preceded along west wall of Altis to the Temple of Zeus to start games

• **March of athletes at opening ceremonies**

9 **Metroon Temple** of Cybele, mother of gods

10 **Great Altar of Zeus** Site of sacrifices to Zeus, father of gods

11 **Nymphaion** Pool with two small temples; Roman aqueduct emptied into it

12 **Pelopion** Shrine of Pelops, king of Peloponnese and founder of games, according to Greek myth

13 **Temple of Zeus** Held gigantic figure of Zeus holding Nike (Victory), sculpted by Pheidias; one of seven wonders of ancient world

14 **Bouleuterion** Three adjoining buildings; contained Altar of Zeus Horkios, on which athletes swore oath before games

• **Site of opening ceremonies**

15 **Heraion** Temple of Hera, wife of Zeus

16 **Altis** Sacred grove

17 **Philippeion** Contains five statues of Alexander the Great; named for his father, Philip II, who began construction

18 **Pyrtaneion** Sanctuary officials' headquarters; housed sacred hearth with its eternal flame; official guests, game winners entertained here  
• **Olympic torch, cauldron**

19 **Leonidation** Guest house for officials  
• **Accommodations for officials**

20 **Workshop of Pheidias**

21 **Theokoleon** Housed priests of Olympia

22 **Roman hotel**

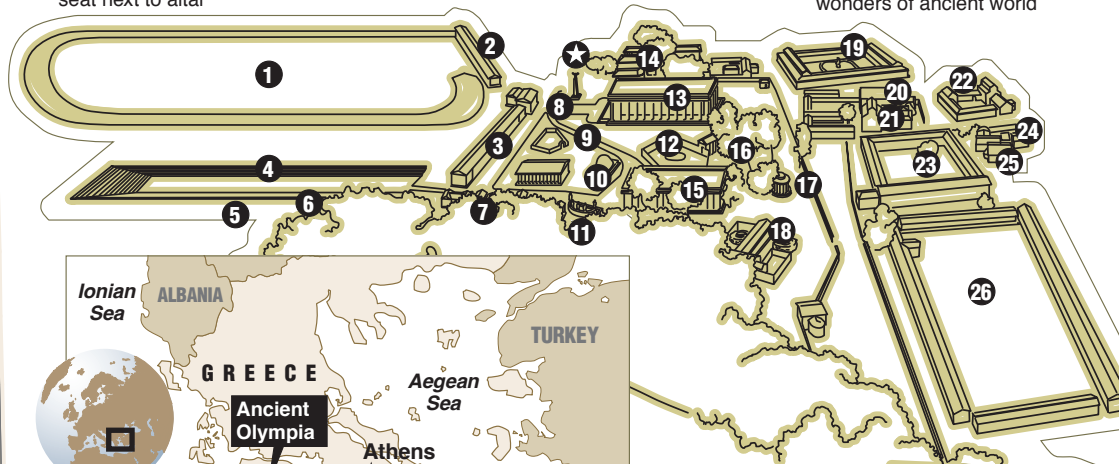
23 **Palaestra** Wrestling school where wrestlers, boxers, jumpers trained and competed

• **Wrestling, boxing venues**

24 **Swimming pool**

25 **Baths**

26 **Gymnasion** Spacious center court; used for training  
• **Olympic Village training facilities**



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Source: Athens 2004 Organizing Committee, "The Olympic Games in Ancient Greece," edited by Maria Koursi, "Olympia" by Manolis Andronikos, "Olympia: Guide to the Museum and Sanctuary" by A. and N. Yalouris Graphic: Pat Carr, Lee Hulteng